1280 10360. b. 43.
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A CONCISE

History & Description

OF

KENILWORTH CASTLE,

FROM ITS

FOUNDATION TO THE PRESENT TIME.

THE FOURTH EDITION.

Warwick,

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ADVERTISEMENT.

I Was induced to draw up an account of KENILWORTH CASTLE, *to ſatisfy the enquiries of ſeveral of my friends who came to ſee it; and have been prevailed upon to enlarge and print it, from their thinking it might afford ſome information to the many ſtrangers who viſit the ruins. If it in any degree does this, my intention will be fully anſwered.*

I have principally followed DUGDALE *as far as he goes, and have made ſome conſiderable extracts from his book.*

The ſubſequent part of the hiſtory, I have endeavoured to render authentic, by procuring all the information in my power.

It may not be improper to add, as it muſt afford ſome ſatisfaction to the charitable *and* humane, *that the whole profits ariſing from the ſale of the book, will be applied to the relief of the poor.*

A CONCISE

A CONCISE

HISTORY

OF

Kenilworth Caſtle, &c.

KENILWORTH CASTLE has been long celebrated in the annals of this kingdom. In the times of our warlike Barons, it was renowned for ſuperior ſtrength; and in later days, when ſecurity rendered its uſe as a fortreſs unneceſſary, after being enlarged and greatly ornamented by the Earl of Leiceſter, it became the ſcene of one of the moſt ſumptuous entertainments that was ever offered by a ſubject to his Sovereign. The beauty and grandeur of the remaining ruins, correſpond with the magnificent ideas one has been led to form of this caſtle, and

bear

bear indiſputable teſtimony of its ancient ſplendour. It was built about the year 1120, by Geoffry de Clinton, a Norman, who was Lord Chamberlain and Treaſurer to King Henry the firſt, of whom he obtained a grant of lands for this purpoſe.

There was formerly a more ancient caſtle in this pariſh, ſituated in the woods oppoſite Stoneleigh Abbey; but it was demoliſhed in King Edmund's wars with the Danes, long before the foundations of the preſent caſtle were laid.

The monaſtery for Black Canons, near the church (the gateway and part of the chapel of which are ſtill remaining) was founded by the ſame Geoffry de Clinton, who endowed it with large eſtates, and various privileges; particularly, a tenth part of all the eatables that were brought into the caſtle, though they had been tithed elſewhere before, together with all the lamb-ſkins throughout his manors, and a right to fiſh in the pool, with boats and nets every Thurſday.

This priory ſuffered much during the ſiege of the caſtle, in Henry the third's reign: for though they allowed the King three hundred quarters of corn, and ſundry other things, to obtain his protection for the reſt of their goods, yet they were pillaged by the ſoldiers, and ſo far impoveriſhed, that the King granted them letters patent after the caſtle ſurrendered, recommending to all his tenants to contribute to their relief as far as they were able.

At the ſurvey, taken in the twenty-ſixth year of Henry the eighth, this monaſtery was valued at 643l. 14s. 9d. and on the 15th of April, in the twenty-ninth year of the ſame reign (about four hundred and thirty years after its firſt endowment), was ſurrendered by Simon Jekys, the laſt Abbot, and ſixteen monks, who had penſions aſſigned them by the King. His Majeſty granted the abbey lands to Sir Andrew Flamock, whoſe grand-daughter and ſole heireſs carried them by marriage to John Colbourn, Eſq. who afterwards buying ſome horſes, that had been ſtolen out of Lord Leiceſter's ſtables, was ſo much frightened by the threats of the Earl, that he was glad to make his peace, by giving up the

lands

lands to him on eaſy terms; and they have been ever ſince annexed to the domains of the caſtle.

The caſtle, though it ſeems to have been in poſſeſſion of the ſon and grand-ſon of the founder, did not continue uninterruptedly in the Clinton family. In the eleventh of Henry the ſecond, the Sheriff accounted to the Crown for the profits of the park: and in the nineteenth year of the ſame reign (A. D. 1173), it was garriſoned by the King, on his ſon's rebellion: at which time it appears, by an account of the ſtores laid into the caſtle, for the uſe of the garriſon, that wheat was about two-pence half-penny a buſhel, barley nearly the ſame price; the carcaſs of a cow ſalted, was charged at two ſhillings, cheeſe four-pence a piece, and other articles in proportion.

In the beginning of King John's reign, Henry de Clinton, grand-ſon to the founder, releaſed to the King all his right to the caſtle, with the woods, pools, &c. and it was afterwards never out of the poſſeſſion of the Crown, till granted by Henry the third to the Earl of Leiceſter, as appears from the charges of the different Sheriffs and Governors for repairs; in which, from time

to

to time, conſiderable ſums of money were expended. It is alſo evident from the Sheriff's account of the farm of the lands, for feed of hogs in the park, ward money paid by the country people in lieu of perſonal ſervice in guarding the caſtle, and rent paid by divers perſons reſiding therein, who are ſuppoſed to have obtained permiſſion to live there, from its being a place of ſecurity for themſelves and goods, in thoſe turbulent and licentious times.

Henry the third, in 1242, new built the outer wall on the ſouth ſide towards the pool: he likewiſe ornamented the chapel, and made a royal ſeat in it for himſelf and his Queen; but he did not long continue to make this the place of his reſidence, for about two years afterwards, he granted it to Simon Montford, Earl of Leiceſter (to whom he had given his ſiſter in marriage), for his own and his wife's life.

The woods about it at this time were ſo thick, that they became a ſhelter to thieves and outlaws, to the great annoyance of travellers; for whoſe ſafety ſix acres in breadth were ordered to

be

be cut down on the road from Coventry to Warwick.

Montford, though he had received many marks of favour from Henry, was excited by his ambition, to form a ſcheme for ſubverting the government of the kingdom. The weakneſs, the injuſtice, and the partiality of this Prince for foreigners, whom he raiſed to the moſt exalted dignities in the ſtate, made the Engliſh Barons highly averſe to his government. They ſided with Leiceſter; and finding themſelves too ſtrong to fear any oppoſition, they carried their point, and inſtituted an executive council of twenty-four Peers, to aſſiſt in governing the kingdom: a moſt dangerous alteration of the conſtitution, but fortunately it was not of long continuance. The tyranny of their new rulers ſoon led the people to regret the change. Prince Edward, King Henry's eldeſt ſon, taking advantage of the general diſcontent that prevailed, and ſupported by ſome loyal Peers, and the King's military vaſſals, raiſed an army to deprive the Barons of their newly acquired power. He was joined by the King, and they met the army of the Barons near Lewes, in Suſſex; a general engagement enſued,

in

in which the latter was victorious, and made the King, his brother, and the Prince of Wales priſoners. The Prince, however, making his eſcape, was ſoon able to raiſe another army, and attacking the Barons, who had made Montford their General, near Eveſham, totally defeated him. He himſelf was ſlain, and the remains of his army, with his ſon, fled to Kenilworth, and ſhut themſelves up in the caſtle.

Prince Edward having thus releaſed his father, whom Lord Leiceſter had kept in cuſtody, marched with him and his victorious troops, to lay ſiege to the caſtle. Young Montford going privately to France, in order to obtain aſſiſtance from his uncle, to ſupport his friends, left Henry de Haſtings governor during his abſence, who gallantly defended the caſtle for ſix months againſt the King's forces. But at length the garriſon being in great want of proviſions, attacked by a peſtilential diſeaſe, and ſeeing no probability of young Montford's being able to bring them any aſſiſtance, were obliged to capitulate.

Stone balls, ſixteen inches in diameter, and weighing near two hundred pounds, ſuppoſed to have been thrown with engines in this ſiege, are

mentioned

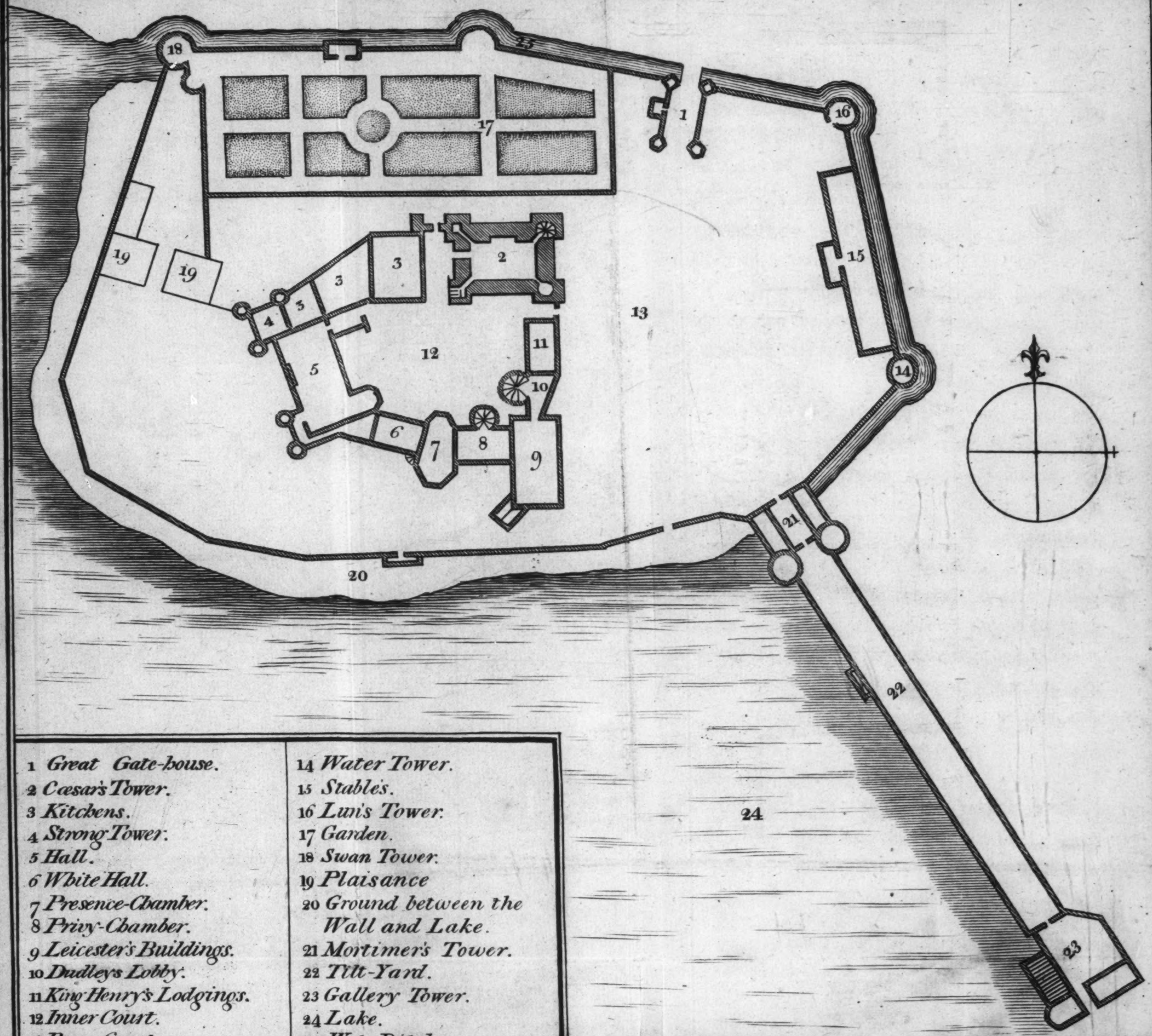
mentioned by Cambden to have been dug up in his time. And ſome of them have been found within theſe few years.

The King's attention was not wholly taken up during the ſiege, with military affairs; he gave his niece in marriage here to the Duke of Brunſwick; and the Queen and her ladies came from Windſor, and honoured the camp with their company on that occaſion.

A ſhort time before the caſtle ſurrendered, the celebrated decree called *Dictum de Kenilworth*, was made here, by twelve perſons, Biſhops, and Peers, choſen by the King. This was done, in order to ſoften the ſeverity of the Parliament holden at Wincheſter, which had entirely confiſcated the eſtates of the rebels and their adherents; inſtead of which, this decree, that they might not be rendered deſperate through deſpair, ſentenced them only to a pecuniary fine, of not more than five years income of their eſtates, nor leſs than two.

But to return to the caſtle, which by this means coming again into the hands of the Crown,

the



1 *Great Gate-house.*
2 *Cæsar's Tower.*
3 *Kitchens.*
4 *Strong Tower.*
5 *Hall.*
6 *White Hall.*
7 *Presence-Chamber.*
8 *Privy-Chamber.*
9 *Leicester's Buildings.*
10 *Dudley's Lobby.*
11 *King Henry's Lodgings.*
12 *Inner Court.*
13 *Base Court.*
14 *Water Tower.*
15 *Stables.*
16 *Lun's Tower.*
17 *Garden.*
18 *Swan Tower.*
19 *Plaisance*
20 *Ground between the Wall and Lake.*
21 *Mortimer's Tower.*
22 *Tilt-Yard.*
23 *Gallery Tower.*
24 *Lake.*
25 *Wet Ditch.*

the King, in 1267, granted it, with free-chaſe and free-warren, and a right to hold a weekly market, and an annual fair in Kenilworth, to Edmund, his younger ſon, whom he created Earl of Leiceſter at the battle of Eveſham, and Earl of Lancaſter two years afterwards.

The *pool* had at this time two mills ſtanding upon it, and was about half a mile long, and a quarter of a mile broad.

In 1279, there was a great reſort of noble perſons to this caſtle, conſiſting of an hundred Knights, and as many ladies, who formed a round table (a cuſtom of great antiquity, to prevent diſputes about precedency.) Many noblemen from foreign countries came here on the occaſion, and ſpent a week with the Knights and ladies in feaſting, martial tournaments, dancing, and other amuſements. And ſo very diſtant from our ideas of luxury, were our forefathers in thoſe days, that an hiſtorian has thought it a thing worthy of recording, that the ladies who attended this feſtivity, were clothed in *ſilken mantles*. Roger Mortimer, Earl of March, was the principal promoter of this entertainment.

The caſtle continued uninterruptedly in the poſſeſſion of Edmund's ſucceſſors, till the reign of Edward the ſecond; when another rebellion proved as fatal to the owner, as the former one had done to his predeceſſor Lord Leiceſter.

The unbounded prodigality with which this weak Prince laviſhed riches and honours upon his favourites, excited the murmurs of his ſubjects; and in that warlike age, diſcontent was quickly followed by oppoſition; they flew to arms, and were headed by the Earl of Lancaſter. Their reſentment was firſt directed againſt Piers de Gaveſton, the ſon of a Knight of Gaſcony, who was then the reigning favourite. Edward had granted to this young man the Earldom of Cornwall, and lately given him his niece in marriage. Intoxicated with the height of power to which he ſaw himſelf advanced, he treated the Engliſh Barons with haughtineſs and contempt. They determined to be revenged, but on Gaveſton's retiring to Flanders, were ſeemingly ſatisfied. The King, unable to live without his favourite, ſoon recalled him from thence. The Barons appeared in arms, and laying ſiege to Scarborough caſtle, where Gaveſton then was,

forced

forced it to ſurrender, carried him priſoner to Warwick caſtle, and ſoon afterwards cauſed him to be beheaded on the top of Blacklow Hill, near Leek-Wootton. A croſs was afterwards erected on this ſpot, in memory of Gaveſton; and his name, cut in the rock below, is ſtill viſible. The King, whoſe fondneſs for favourites rendered him inattentive to the voice of his ſubjects, ſoon ſupplied Gaveſton's place. Spencer, a comely young man, was the object he fixed upon. The ſame cauſes produced ſimilar effects. The Barons formed a combination againſt young Spencer, and cauſed him and his father to be ſentenced to perpetual exile. The King, unable at this time to reſiſt ſo powerful a confederacy, was obliged to ſubmit, but ſometime afterwards taking the advantage of a ſmall army he had raiſed to puniſh an affront offered to the Queen, he ſuddenly turned his arms againſt the Barons, who being quite unprepared to reſiſt him, were obliged to fly. The Earl of Lancaſter retreated towards the north, with what men he was able to get together, but being cloſely purſued by the King, and meeting another body of the

royal forces in his way towards Scotland, he was repulſed in a ſkirmiſh with them, and taken priſoner.

As he had formerly ſhewn no mercy to Gaveſton, he was treated with equal ſeverity; he was immediately condemned by a court-martial, and executed on an eminence near one of his own caſtles at Pontefract in Yorkſhire. The infatuated Monarch immediately recalled the Spencers, who now became more inſolent and aſſuming then ever. The Queen and the whole kingdom were exaſperated againſt them. This haughty and ambitious Princeſs retired to the court of France, on a pretence of carrying the young Prince her ſon to do homage for the duchy of Guienne, which was held under that crown. She was followed by many of the diſcontented Barons, and declaring ſhe would never return to England in peace, unleſs young Spencer was baniſhed the kingdom, ſhe levied an army to effect by force what ſhe had little hopes of doing by entreaties. On her landing in England, ſhe was joined by almoſt the whole kingdom.

The

The unfortunate Edward was obliged to ſeek for ſafety in flight; leaving his palace, he he retired to Briſtol, where he got on board a ſhip, and attempted to ſteer for Ireland, but being driven by contrary winds on the coaſt of Wales, he was taken, and brought priſoner to Kenilworth caſtle.

The ſubſequent hiſtory of this unfortunate Monarch is truly diſmal. He was depoſed by parliament, and his ſon Edward the third, declared King. From Kenilworth, he was removed to Berkly caſtle, where, after having been carried to Corfe caſtle, and various parts of the kingdom, he was brought back again, and murdered in a moſt cruel way, at the inſtigation of the Queen, and her favourite, Mortimer.

In 1327, Henry, brother to the late Earl, was by Edward the third reſtored to the Earldoms of Lancaſter and Leiceſter, this caſtle, and all his brother's eſtates. His ſon was afterwards, in the ſame reign, created Duke of Lancaſter; but he dying without male iſſue, and

leaving only two daughters, John of Gaunt, fourth ſon to King Edward the third, married one of them, and obtained this caſtle, for her dower; and the King afterwards gave him the Dukedom of Lancaſter.

He greatly enlarged the caſtle, by adding various buildings to it; particularly the tower, with three ſtories of arches, at the north end of the hall, which ſtill bears his name; and he very much increaſed the ſtrength of it, by adding turrets to the outer walls.

He died in 1399, and leaving iſſue Henry, ſurnamed Bolinbroke (from the place of his birth) who was afterwards Henry the fourth, this caſtle came a third time into the hands of the crown, and continued ſo through ſeveral ſucceſſive reigns.

Henry the ſeventh united it to the Dukedom of Cornwall; and his ſon Henry the eighth, was at a conſiderable expence, in repairing and ornamenting it. He removed the *Pleaſons en Marais* (apparently a building for

for little parties of pleaſure) from the low marſhy ground where it ſtood, to where the remains of it now are, within the walls near the Swan Tower.

It deſcended after his death, regularly to his ſon Edward the ſixth, Queen Mary, and her ſiſter Elizabeth; who, in 1563, granted it with all the royalties belonging to it, to Robert Dudley, third ſon to the Duke of Northumberland, who ſhe ſoon afterwards created Earl of Leiceſter.

It was under his haughty favourite, that Kenilworth reached the ſummit of its grandeur. He, in 1571, erected the large pile of building on the ſouth ſide of the inner court, which bears his name, and the great gate-houſe on the north; this he made the principal entrance, and changed the front of the caſtle, which before was towards the lake. He likewiſe built a tower at each end of the tilt-yard, from whence the ladies had an opportunity of ſeeing the noble diverſion of tilting and barriers; and greatly enlarged the

lake.

lake, the chace, and the parks which now extended over near twenty miles of country. He is ſaid to have expended ſixty thouſand pounds (an immenſe ſum in thoſe days) in theſe magnificent improvements.

" Here, in July, 1575, having compleated " all things for her reception, Lord Leiceſter " entertained Queen Elizabeth for the ſpace of " ſeventeen days, with exceſſive coſt, and a " variety of delightful ſhews, as may be ſeen " at large in a ſpecial diſcourſe thereof then " printed, and entitled *The Princely Plea-* " *ſures of Kenilworth Caſtle.** At her firſt " entrance, there was a floating iſland upon " the pool, bright blazing with torches; upon " which, clad in ſilks, were the *Lady of the* " *Lake*, and two nymphs waiting on her; " who made a ſpeech to the Queen in metre, " of the antiquity and owners of the caſtle; " which was cloſed with cornets and loud " muſic. Within the baſe-court there was " a very goodly bridge ſet up, of twenty feet " wide

* Written by Gaſcoign, an attendant on the court, and a poet. It is printed in the laſt edition of his poems.

" wide and ſeventy feet long, over which the
" Queen did paſs. On each ſide thereof were
" poſts erected, with preſents upon them un-
" to her, by the gods, *viz.* A cage of wild
" fowl, by *Silvanus;* ſundry rare fruits, by
" *Pomona;* of corn, by *Ceres;* of wine by
" *Bacchus;* of ſea-fiſh, by *Neptune;* of all
" the habiliments of war, by *Mars;* and of
" muſical inſtruments, by *Apollo.* And for
" the ſeveral days of her ſtay, various rare
" ſports and ſhews were there exerciſed, *viz.*
" in the chaſe, a ſavage man with ſatyrs;
" bear-baitings, fire-works, Italian tumblers,
" a country bridal, with running at the quin-
" tin,* and morris-dancing. And that there
" might

* Running at the quintin, was a ludicrous kind of tilting, performed in the following manner: — A poſt, as high as a man on horſe-back, was ſet upright in the ground, with an iron pivot on the top, on which turned a long horizontal beam, unequally divided. To the upright poſt was fixed the figure of a man; the horizontal beam repreſenting his arms; the ſhorteſt end had a target nearly covering the whole body, with a hole, in the ſhape of a heart, or a ring, cut in the middle of it; and the longeſt was armed with a wooden ſword, or a bag of ſand. Peaſants, mounted on cart-horſes, run full tilt at this figure, and endeavoured to ſtrike the heart with a pole made like a lance; if they ſucceeded, they were greatly applauded; but if they ſtruck the ſhield inſtead of the heart, the

ſhort

" might be nothing wanting that theſe parts
" could afford, hither came the Coventry
" men, and acted the ancient play, long ſince
" uſed in that city, called *Hock's-Tueſday*,
" ſetting forth the deſtruction of the Danes in
" King Etheldred's time; with which the
" Queen was ſo well pleaſed, that ſhe gave
" them a brace of bucks, and five marks in
" money, to bear the charges of a feaſt.

" Beſides all this, he had upon the pool a
" Triton, riding on a Mermaid eighteen feet
" long; as alſo an Arion on a Dolphin, with
" rare muſic. And to honour this entertain-
" ment the more, there were then knighted
" here Sir Thomas Cecil, ſon and heir to the
" Lord Treaſurer, Sir Henry Cobham, brother

to

ſhort arm of the lever retiring brought round the wooden ſword or the ſand bag with ſuch velocity, as generally to unhorſe the awkward aſſailant.—This amuſement, ſomewhat diverſified, was not long ago practiſed in Flanders, at their wakes and feſtivals. The revolving arms were placed vertically; the lower ſhewing the ring, whilſt the upper one ſupported a veſſel full of water, which emptying itſelf on the head of the unſkilful tilter, puniſhed his want of dexterity with a ſevere ducking. *Beauties of Britiſh Antiquity.*

" to Lord Cobham, Sir Francis Stanhope,
" and Sir Thomas Treſham.*

" The coſt and expence of this entertain-
" ment may be gueſſed at, by the quantity
" of beer then drank, which amounted to
" three hundred and twenty hogſheads of the
" ordinary ſort, as I have been credibly in-
" formed.

" Shortly after which, *viz.* the year next
" enſuing, Lord Leiceſter obtained by grant
" of the ſaid Queen, a weekly market here,
" upon the Wedneſday, and a fair yearly on
" Midſummer-day."

Lord Leiceſter left this caſtle and eſtate by his will, to his brother, Ambroſe, Earl of Warwick, for his life; and after his death, to Sir

* Rowland White has left us a curious account of the amuſements of Elizabeth's reign, and with what ſpirit her Majeſty purſued her pleaſures as late as her ſixty-ſeventh year. " Her Majeſty ſays ſhe is very well. This day ſhe appoints a Frenchman to do Feates upon a rope in the conduit court. To-morrow ſhe hath commanded the Bears, the Bull, and the Ape to be bayted in the Tilt-yard. Upon Wedneſday ſhe will have ſolemne dawncing."

Pennant's, London.

Sir Robert Dudley, whom he did not then think proper to ſtile his lawful ſon.

The Earl of Warwick dying about a year afterwards, Sir Robert came into poſſeſſion of them; and determined to prove his legitimacy, and aſſert his claims to his father's titles. The caſe was as follows: Lord Leiceſter privately married the widow of Lord Sheffield, by whom he had this ſon; but being apprehenſive that the Queen would diſſapprove of his marriage, it was never made public: This the Earl afterwards baſely took advantage of, and married Lady Eſſex (whom he fell violently in love with), though the Lady Sheffield was ſtill living; and ſhe (Lady Eſſex) had intereſt enough after his death to obtain a decree in the Star-chamber, by which, all Sir Robert Dudley's proceedings to prove his father's prior marriage, with the Lady Sheffield, (which he had nearly accompliſhed,) were put a ſtop to, as a ſentence in his favour muſt greatly have reflected on Lady Eſſex's character. Sir Robert now determined to leave a country where he had met with ſuch undeſerved ill treatment, and ſoon after went abroad

and

and ſettled in Italy. His great learning, and other rare endowments, raiſed him very high in the favor and eſteem of the Grand Duke of Tuſcany, and the Emperor Ferdinand the ſecond, who, in 1620, created him a Duke; whereupon he was generally called Duke of Northumberland, which, title his grand-father bore 'till he forfeited it by attainder, in the reign of Queen Mary. His (Sir Robert's) wife was the Ducheſs Dudley (ſo created in the reign of Charles the firſt), whoſe name is recorded in the church, as a conſiderable benefactreſs to this pariſh. His abſence gave his enemies at home an opportunity of raiſing a falſe clamour againſt him, and they procured a ſummons under the privy ſeal, for his return; but he not complying with it, his caſtle and eſtates were ſeized for the King's uſe, by the ſtatute of fugitives. The following ſurvey of them was then taken, which I have ſubjoined, as it ſhews the magnificence of the caſtle at that time. It is copied from Dugdale.

" The caſtle of Kenilworth *ſituate on a rock.*

" 1ſt The circuit thereof, within the walls, containeth ſeven acres; upon which (the walls)

the walks are ſo ſpacious and fair, that two or three perſons together, may walk upon moſt places thereof.

" 2d. The caſtle, with the four gatehouſes, all built of free-ſtone, hewn and cut; the walls in many places ten and fifteen feet in thickneſs; ſome more, ſome leſs, the leaſt, four feet.

" 3d. The caſtle, and four gate-houſes, all covered with lead, whereby it is ſubject to no other decay but the glaſs, through the extremity of the weather.

" 4th. The rooms of great ſtate within the ſame; and ſuch as are able to receive his Majeſty, the Queen, and Prince, at one time, built with as much uniformity and conveniency as any houſes of later times: and with ſuch ſtately cellars, all carried upon pillars, and architecture of free ſtone, carved and wrought, as the like are not within this kingdom; and alſo all other houſes for offices anſwerable.

" 5th. There lieth about the ſame, in chaſes and parks, twelve hundred pounds per annum; nine

nine hundred whereof are grounds for pleaſure, the reſt in meadow and paſture thereunto adjoining, tenants and freeholders.

" 6th. There joineth upon this ground, a park like ground, called the King's Wood, with fifteen ſeveral coppices lying altogether, containing ſeven hundred and eighty nine acres within the ſame; which, in the Earl of Leiceſter's time, were ſtored with red deer, ſince which the deer have ſtrayed, but the ground is in no ſort blemiſhed, having great ſtore of timber and other trees of much value upon the ſame.

" 7th. There runneth through the ſame grounds, by the walls of the caſtle, a *fair pool*, containing one hundred and eleven acres, well ſtored with fiſh and wild fowl; which at pleaſure is to be let round about the caſtle.

" 8th. In timber and woods upon the ground, to the value (as hath been offered) of twenty thouſand pounds (having a convenient time to remove them;) which to his Majeſty, in the ſurvey, are valued at eleven thouſand ſeven hundred and twenty-two pounds; which propor-

tion, in a like meaſure, is held in all the reſt upon the other values to his Majeſty.

" 9th. The circuit of the caſtle, manors, parks, and chaſe, lying round together, contain at leaſt nineteen or twenty miles, in a pleaſant country; the like both for ſtrength, ſtate, and pleaſure, not being within the realm of England.

" 10th. Theſe lands have been ſurveyed by Commiſſioners from the King, and the Lord Privy Seal, with directions from his Lordſhip to find all things under their true worth, and upon the oath of jurors, as well freeholders as cuſtomary tenants; which courſe being held by them, are notwithſtanding ſurveyed and returned at thirty eight thouſand five hundred and fifty four pounds, fifteen ſhillings.

" Out of which, for Sir Robert Dudley's contempt, there is to be deducted ten thouſand pounds, and for the Lady Dudley's jointure, which is without impeachment of waſte, whereby ſhe may fell all the woods, which, by the ſurvey, amount to eleven thouſand, ſeven hundred

and

and twenty-two pounds. The total of the ſurvey ariſeth as followeth;

	£.	s.	d.
In land, - - -	16,431	9	0
In woods, - -	11,722	2	0
The caſtle, - -	10,401	4	0
Total, -	£. 38,554	15	0*

" His Majeſty hath herein the mean profits of the caſtle and premiſes, through Sir Robert Dudley's contempt, during life, or his Majeſty's pardon, the reverſion in fee being in the Lord Privy Seal."

Prince Henry (eldeſt ſon to James the firſt) was very deſirous of obtaining this caſtle; which as appears by the foregoing report, was one of the moſt magnificent places at that time in the kingdom. He made overtures to Sir Robert Dudley to purchaſe it, and offered him fourteen

* As the woods in this ſurvey are valued at only 11,722l. which had been offered 20,000l. for, and the ſame proportion obſerved in the caſtle and eſtates; the whole therefore, inſtead of 38,554l. as valued at in the eſtimate, muſt have been worth 65,780l. and even this ſeems too ſmall a ſum, as Lord Leiceſter had ſo lately expended 60,000l. here.

fourteen thouſand five hundred pounds for his right in it; a ſum greatly inadequate to its value; but Sir Robert foreſeeing the little probability of his ever returning to England, accepted the offer, and the conveyances were accordingly executed. Three thouſand pounds were to have been paid at the time: but, by the failure of the merchant who undertook to remit the money to Sir Robert, who was then in Italy, he did not receive it; and Prince Henry dying ſoon after, the remainder of the purchaſe money was never paid. Nevertheleſs Prince Charles took poſſeſſion of it, as heir to his brother, and obtained a grant out of the Exchequer for four thouſand pounds to Sir Robert Dudley's wife, in lieu of her jointure, He kept it till he came to the crown; but in the firſt year of his reign, he granted it to Robert Carey Earl of Monmouth, Lord Carey his eldeſt ſon, and Thomas Carey, Eſq. It continued in their hands during the reign of King Charles; but after his death, Oliver Cromwell gave the whole manor to ſeveral of his officers, who ſtripped, and partly demoliſhed the caſtle; drained the lake, cut down the woods, and deſtroyed the parks and chaſe; they divided the land into farms, which they continued to hold, till the reſtoration

ſtoration again altered the face of things. King Charles the ſecond renewed the leaſe granted by his father, to the Earl of Monmouth's daughters; but it being again almoſt expired, he granted the reverſion of the whole manor to Lawrence Lord Hyde (ſecond ſon to Lord Chancellor Clarendon) whom he created Baron of Kenilworth Caſtle and Earl of Rocheſter. His Lordſhip died in 1711, and was ſucceeded in his titles and eſtate by Henry his only ſon; who, in 1723, by the death of Edward, third Earl of Clarendon, ſucceeded likewiſe to that Earldom. But he dying in 1753, and leaving no male iſſue, his grand-daughter Lady Charlotte Capel (by William Capel, Earl of Eſſex, and the Lady Jane Hyde his wife) became (her mother being before dead) the repreſentative of the Hyde family; and purſuant to the will of the ſaid Henry Earl of Clarendon and Rocheſter, ſhe took the names and arms of Hyde. Her Ladyſhip, in 1752, was married to the Honourble Thomas Villers, ſecond ſon to the Earl of Jerſey; who was by King George the ſecond, in 1756, created Lord Hyde of Hindon, in the county of Wilts, and had the further honour of the Earldom of Clarendon conferred upon him by his preſent Majeſty in 1776. His Lordſhip

died

died the fifteenth of December, 1786, leaving this Caſtle and his eſtates in Warwickſhire to his eldeſt ſon, the preſent Earl of Clarendon.

Having now traced out the hiſtory of the caſtle, from its foundation to the preſent time, nothing further remains, but to give a deſcription of its preſent ſtate. I mean not to paint the magnificence or beauty of its ruins (that would indeed be a much properer ſubject for the pencil than the pen), but merely to give ſtrangers a clue, that may enable them to walk over the remains of this noble pile with greater ſatisfaction, from knowing the different parts as they go along. In this they will be greatly aſſiſted by the plan of the caſtle which I have annexed principally for that purpoſe.

You enter from the north, by the ſide of the great gate-houſe, built by Lord Leiceſter; the wall and ditch formerly joined it, and you entered the caſtle under an arched way, between the four turrets; but on its being made an habitation, it was walled up, and formed into two large rooms. One of them is fitted up with an elegant chimney-piece, and an oak wainſcot, taken from Leiceſter buildings, and is worthy attention. I would adviſe every ſtranger to ſee it;

it; an indulgence they will readily obtain from the civility of the people who live in the houſe. The large pile of building on the right hand (abſurdly called *Cæſar's Tower*), is the ſtrongeſt and moſt ancient part of the caſtle, and ſerved as a kind of fortreſs to it in times of danger; three ſides of the wall are entire; the fourth ſide was pulled down by Oliver Cromwell's ſoldiers, in order to make uſe of the materials. It ſeemingly conſiſted of one vaſt room on a floor, and a variety of cloſets formed in the walls, which in ſome places are ſixteen feet thick. The great ſtaircaſe was in the ſouth-weſt angle of the building. Some of the paintings on the walls are ſtill viſible. The three kitchens lie beyond it, and reached nearly from *Cæſar's Tower* to Lancaſter Buildings; they were very large: ſome traces of foundations on the greenſword is all that now remains of them, and only ſerves to ſhew their ſituation. Lancaſter buildings come next; they were very ſtrong, the three ranges of arches one above another are ſtill to be ſeen. You ſhould climb over them to the top of the wall (which the ruined ſtate of the building, and the rubbiſh that has fallen down, render no very difficult taſk), from whence you have a fine view of the country,

with

with the houſe and church at Honiley in the back ground. One cannot ſtand here a moment, without being ſtruck with the idea of what a glorious proſpect this muſt have been when the valleys on either hand were filled with the tranſparent waters of the lake, ſurrounded with a beautiful variety of pleaſure ground, laid out in lawns and woods. In coming down again, you have the great hall on your right hand; a noble room 86 feet long, and 45 feet wide, well adapted to the hoſpitable days of our forefathers. Underneath the hall, was a room of the ſame dimenſions, for the domeſtics, and thoſe numerous gueſts who were not entitled to a place at the upper table. Towards the ſouth end of the hall, on the eaſt ſide, there is a large bow window and oppoſite to it, a receſs, that probably ſerved as a kind of ſide-board, beyond which there is a ſmall cloſet, which the common people have ridiculouſly named *Queen Elizabeth's Dreſſing-room*. You now come to the range of apartments that form'd the ſouth ſide of the inner-court, conſiſting of the White-hall, the Preſence-chamber, and the Privy-chamber, of which there is nothing remaining but the fragments of walls and ſtaircaſes, and part of two large bow windows; the inner

one

one is, like thoſe of the hall, hung with ivy in a very pictureſque way. Indeed the ivy that covers theſe ruins, forms one of their greateſt ornaments. Leiceſter Buildings, though the laſt erected, ſeem likely to be the firſt part that will totally fall to decay. Time has already made great havoc with this noble pile, and ſome part or other annually moulders away under his ruthleſs hand. But ſtill, far greater have been the depredations cauſed by avarice. Vaſt quantities of materials have been fetched from hence, for the various purpoſes of building, repairing roads, &c. and it is to the benevolent attention of the late Earl of Clarendon, that we owe what now remains. His Lordſhip was careful to preſerve the ruins from deſtruction, and prevented the looſe materials from being applied to ſuch improper uſes. Proceeding round Leiceſter buildings to the right, you come to the weſt front, which is more uniform than any other of the caſtle. The light arch fronting you, leads through what was formerly called the *Plaiſance*, to the garden * which is modernized into an orchard. Nothing now remains but the tilt-yard, ſituated to the north-eaſt of the caſtle, which formed the head of the pool; a ſluice in the middle of it (formerly arched over)

ſerved

* This entrance to the garden is recently walled up.

ſerved to drain off the ſuperfluous waters of the lake, which waſhed the foot of the liſts on the weſt ſide, while a wall towards the eaſt effectually prevented the horſes from ſwerving on that ſide, in the martial exerciſes of the tilts and tournaments that uſed to be performed here.

At the end of the tilt-yard, and formerly connected with it by a bridge, the ruins of which ſtill remain, there is a piece of ground ſtrongly fortified with a deep ditch and a rampart of earth. Over this, till Lord Leiceſter built the great gate-houſe, lay the road to the caſtle. The remains of two ſtone towers, that ſtood on each ſide the entrance, are ſtill to be ſeen.

From this ſpot you have a very good near view of the caſtle; there is a good one likewiſe from the end of the meadow to the ſouth-weſt, and another from the hills to the north-weſt; but perhaps the ſpot from whence the caſtle appears to the greateſt advantage, is on the road from Honily to Warwick, where it is ſeen proudly ſituated in the midſt of a noble wood, and appears

" Boſom'd high in tufted trees."

The End.

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